

Vermilion Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Vermilion	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	22.1%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	30.3%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	7.0%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,356	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.5%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	4.1%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	13.2	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	93.4%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	88.9%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	8.5%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	14.6%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	139.4	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	66.9	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	5.6*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	341.8	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	240.2	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	92.4	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	53.6	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	11.8	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	3.0	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 4	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	24.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	71.6%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.6%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	76.0%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

Vermilion Parish was established on March 25, 1844, carved out of Lafayette parish under Governor Mouton’s administration. Present-day Perry (Perry’s Bridge) was named the parish seat at that time; the parish seat is now in Abbeville. The name comes from Vermilion River and Vermilion Bay, both named because the bluff along the lands of the course of the river is reddish, or vermillion, in color. It offers summer and winter hunting and fishing in many bayous and 50 miles fronting the Gulf of Mexico.



An improved state highway leads to Pecan Island, where commercial and private hunting camps are located and hunters from all parts of the nation come to enjoy their favorite sport. The parish has an abundant supply of fresh water and fertile lands which offer an inviting and desirable spot for the location of new industries. Vermilion Parish offers a cornucopia of culture, history, and unique attraction. Explore magnificent marshlands, Leland Bowman Locks in Intracoastal City, emu and alligator farms, and diverse agriculturally rich lands. Experience a Cajun Cowboy Cattle Drive, a tour of Abbeville’s Historic District including the grandiose St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, or a trip to Erath’s Acadian History Museum.

Parish Seat³Abbeville

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Abbeville
- Kaplan

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	53,807
2003 (estimate)	54,222
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	82.7%
African-American	14.2%
Some other race.....	3.2%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.4%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.1%
5-14	15.8%
15-17	5.2%
18-19	3.2%
20-24	6.3%
25-64	49.0%
65 & over	13.5%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	18ft.
Land area in square miles	1174
Water area in square miles	364.6

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual.....	67°
January.....	58°
July.....	89°
Annual average rainfall.....	61 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Vermilion Parish	
Civilian.....	20,708
Employed.....	19,459
Unemployed.....	1,249
Unemployment.....	6%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed.....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Eunice
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.